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OCI NO. 4493
COPY NO. 1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
19 June 1953

RHEE SAYS SOUTH KOREAN TROOPS WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH ARMISTICE

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In a 19 June letter to General Clark, President Rhee wrote that South Korean troops will not withdraw from the battle line in the event of an armistice.

He also said, in an oral statement to Ambassador Briggs, that the signing of an armistice "will mean the automatic withdrawal of South Korean forces from the UN Command."

Comment: Since South Korean troops occupy virtually 70 percent of the present battle line, this decision by Rhee could produce incidents during the period of implementation of the truce terms which would seriously jeopardize the UN political and military position. The attitude of the army thus becomes critical at this point since it is not known whether the present ranking military commanders, who are under UN operational control, will abide by Rhee's decision.

State Department review completed

JCS review(s) completed.

Document No.	035
Has Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/> 25X1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Used	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HS 73-2
Date:	13 JUL 1978
By:	

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